

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 015425

R 091106 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1413

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8152

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: PRISONER RELEASE IN QUANG TRI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION PRIORITY SAIGON FROM DANANG DTD MAY 8, 1973

RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0498

1. CONGEN POLOFF WITNESSED THE PRISONER RELEASE ON THE THACH HAN RIVER IN QUANG TRI ON MAY 7 TH. RELEASE WAS ALSO OBSERVED BY AN ICCS TEAM FROM SAIGON CENTRAL WHICH OBSERVED FROM THE NORTH BANK. THE QUANG TRI ICCS TEAM WAS NOT OFFICIALLY PRESENT, ALTHOUGH POLOFF NOTED POLES AND INDONESIANS LOUNGING INFORMALLY IN THE AREA ON THE SOUTH BANK. 200 PRISONERS WERE TRUCKED TO SOUTH BANK OF THE THACH HAN RIVER FOR RELEASE. POLOFF HAD THE IMPRESSION, WHICH WAS REINFORCED BY GVN OFFICIALS, THAT MOST WERE LOWER LEVEL RURAL VC. POLOFF UNDERSTANDS THAT AN ADDITIONAL 200 WILL BE RELEASED TODAY AND A FINAL 250 TOMORROW.

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2. AS SUGGESTED SAIGON 7878, FOUR (FEMALE) OF LAST BATCH REFUSED TO CROSS THE RIVER AND " RALLIED." SINCE THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL ICCS PRESENCE ON THE SOUTH BANK (AND THE UN-OFFICIAL ICCS PRESENCE HAD ALREADY DEPARTED), THERE WAS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO CERTIFICATION OF THE DESIRES OF THE FOUR TO RALLY. NEITHER HAVE WE ANY INDICATION OF THE PRG RESPONSE (IF ANY) TO THE ABSENCE OF FOUR OF THE RETURNEES.

3. (BIOGRAPHIC ASIDE): POLOFF WAS TOLD BY GVN OFFICIALS THAT THE FORMER PRG OFFICER- IN- CHARGE ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE THACH HAN RIVER, MAJOR HIEN, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A MAJOR GANG (FNU), WHO APPEARS TO BE ABOUT 38-40 YEARS OF AGE AND SAYS HE WAS BORN IN SAIGON, ALTHOUGH HIS ACCENT IS HARD TO PIN DOWN. GVN OFFICIALS SAID THEY THINK HE MAY BE AREA COMMANDER FOR QUANG TRI.
THOMSEN UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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